retailers of indigenous levy sugar in Punjab is lying pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the transportation charges suggested by Government of Punjab are not according to guidelines framed for the purpose, the Food Corporation of India and the State Government have been asked to furnish the required information. On receipt of the requisite information, the Government shall fix the transportation charges for retailers for the financial year 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Improving sugar industry

5044. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar industries in the country in the private, public and cooperative sectors, State-wise;

(b) the number of those which are sick or are showing signs of incipient sickness;

(c) whether any in-depth study has been conducted on growing sickness in the sugar sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of sugar industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A statement showing State-wise number of installed sugar mills in Public, Private and Cooperative Sectors is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) The sick sugar mills belonging to Private and Public Sectors are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 (SICA). According to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) established under the provision of this Act,

43 sick sugar mills have been registered with them up to 31st March, 2000. Out of 43 sugar mills, 4 were registered twice at different points of time. In view of this actually 39 mills were registered with BIFR.

The Cooperative Sugar mills are not covered by SICA. They fall under the Cooperative Societies Acts of respective states. As per the information provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 92 cooperative sugar mills were having negative net-worth as on 31st March, 1999.

(c) and (d) The High-Powered Committee, under the chairmanship of Shri B.B Mahajan, among other things, has also looked into the problem of sickness in the sugar industry. The various recommendations made by the Committee address the general problem of improving the efficiency and viability of the sugar industry. As recommended by the Committee, to address the problem of sick sugar mills in the cooperative sector, Government has constituted a Committee to recommend, in consultation with the State Governments concerned revival packages of potentially viable units.

(e) Government have taken the following steps to improve the performance of sugar industry.

(i) The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.9.1998;

(ii) The ratio of levy to free sale sugar has been changed from 40:60 to 30:70 with effect from 1.1.2000;

(iii) Duty on imported sugar has been raised to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000 so that domestic prices remain stable;

(iv) The imported sugar has been brought under the release mechanism;

(v) Levy 117 30% on the stocks of imported sugar held by the importer has been imposed with effect from 17.2.2000.

Statement

Statewise, sectorwise installed sugar factories as on 31.3.2000

Name of State	Sectorwise number of installed sugar factories			
	Public	Private	Cooperative	Total
Punjab	0	6	16	22
Haryana	0	3	10	13
Rajasthan	1	1	1	3
Uttar Pradesh	35	61	32	128
Madhya Pradesh	2	4	3	9
Gujarat	0	0	22	22
Maharashtra	0	5	128	133
Bihar	15	13	0	28
Assam	0	1	2	3
Orissa	0	4	4	8
West Bengal	1	1	0	2
Nagaland	1	0	0	1
Andhra Pradesh	6	17	18	41
Karnataka	3	15	19	37
Tamil Nadu	3	19	15	37
Pondicherry	0	1	1	2
Kerala	0	1	1	2
Goa	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	67	152	273	492

Wheat Procurement Plan of FCI

5045. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target for Food Corporation of India to procure wheat for the current season starting from April;

(b) whether Government plan to procure more than 13 million tonnes of wheat from Punjab and Haryana, as procured last year; and

(c) the total capacity for storage of wheat in different parts of the ocuntry by FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As the procurement operations are voluntary in nature and the farmers have the choice to sell their produce to State Governments / Food Corporation